

## **Environmental Health Response Team**

- The team works under the direction of the EHRT coordinator, an employee of IDPH's
  Division of Environmental Health and works closely with other state agencies with similar
  responsibilities.
- The EHRT is comprised of 20 state and local environmental health practitioners such as registered sanitarians, certified environmental health technicians, certified food safety specialists, and engineers.
- EHRT members are issued a 'go bag' for immediate response, and utilize advanced technology such as GPS, GIS mapping, multi-gas meters, and statewide 800MHz radio communications equipment.

## **EHRT Capabilities**

- The EHRT can respond to incidents statewide that have an environmental health impact.
- EHRT members work closely with local public health and environmental health agencies to identify immediate environmental hazards and methods of remediation.
- During a public health emergency, local environmental health agencies can be disrupted or overburdened. The team provides on-site technical assistance and inspection services.
- EHRT members provide a variety
   of environmental health monitoring
   services such as air and water quality,
   waste water systems, food safety, vector
   control, and general sanitation.

## **Volunteer Requirements**

- Volunteers should be willing and able to deploy anywhere in the state for up to 72 hours.
- All EHRT team members are required to take the following basic trainings:
  - IS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System
  - IS 200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
  - IS 700: Introduction to National Incident Management System
- IDPH coordinates regular team meetings and provides training opportunities for team members.

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